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STURMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



Annual Report of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year
1967

Medical Officer of Health: NOEL. F. PEARSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector: F. HODSON, F.A.P.H.I., M.I.P.H.E., M.R.S.H.

Council Offices,
STURMINSTER NEWTON,
Dorset.

May, 1968.

To The Chairman and Members,
Sturminster Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual
Report for the year 1967.

The report is prepared and will be circulated
in accordance with the requirements of the Public Health
Officers Regulations, 1959.

The vital statistics compare favourably with
those for the country as a whole.

I am indebted to Mr. Hodson for his co-operation
and help during the year, and for his assistance in pre-
paring this report, and to Mrs. J. Williamson for her
efficient services as my Clerk during the year.

May I also acknowledge the happy co-operation and
assistance I always obtain from your Clerk, Mr. Harris, your
Housing Manager, Miss Bradley, and all the members of your
staff.

Finally, I would like to thank you, Ladies and
Gentlemen, for your courtesy and consideration throughout
the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

W. J. Beaman

Medical Officer of Health.



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STURMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1 9 6 7

A. Area 45,364 acres					
Rateable value: 1st April, 1968	..	..	..	..	£238,677
Production of a penny rate..	..	..	..	..	£940 (est)

VITAL STATISTICS

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) ..	..	..	10,230
Natural decrease in the population (Deaths over births) ..	..	..	8

LIVE BIRTHS

COMPARATIVE RATES

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>		<u>Sturminster R.D.C.</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
Total	63	76	)Rate per 1,000 resident popu- lation = 13.6	17.4	17.2
Illegitimate	2	6			

STILL-BIRTHS

Total - all legitimate	2	1)Rate per 1,000 live & still- births = 21.0	21.0	14.8

DEATHS

Total	79	68)Rate per 1,000 resident popu- lation = 14.4	10.1	11.2

DEATHS IN INFANTS

Under 1 year	1	Nil	)Infantile death rate per 1,000 live births = 7.0	7.0	18.3
Under 4 weeks	1	Nil			
Under 1 week	1	Nil			
Perinatal mortality =	28.0			28.0	25.4

		<u>1967</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1964</u>
Deaths from Maternal Causes		Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
" " Tuberculosis		1	Nil	Nil	Nil
" " Cancer of the Lungs		3	4	6	5
" " Other Cancer		18	12	19	11
" " Coronary Disease (Angina)		43	40	23	21
" " Other heart or circu- latory disease		51	62	67	48
" " Pneumonia		11	6	4	9
" " Motor vehicle accidents		Nil	Nil	2	1
" " All other accidents		Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
" " Suicide		2	Nil	1	4
" " Leukaemia & Aleukaemia		1	1	Nil	1
" " Influenza		Nil	2	1	Nil

B. N A T U R E O F T H E D I S T R I C T

The district is essentially agricultural in character and many of the local industries are of this nature, which include the manufacture of animal feeding stuffs, cheese making, broiler chicken production and processing, together with the slaughter of animals for 'export' meat.

In addition, glove making, the manufacture of ready mixed concrete and the manufacture of caravans are local industries.

During the year, further efforts have been made to attract new industry into the district.

C. H E A L T H S E R V I C E S I N T H E D I S T R I C T
which are not the responsibility of the District Council.

Hospital coverage for the district is shared by the Yeatman Hospital at Sherborne, the Dorset County Hospital (both of the West Dorset Hospital Group), together with the Blandford Hospital and the Poole General Hospital (of the Bournemouth and East Dorset Hospital Group) of the Wessex Regional Hospital Board.

LABORATORY SERVICES

The Public Health Laboratory Service has once again proved co-operative, helpful and efficient.

GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONER, OPHTHALMIC AND PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES

These are administered locally by the Dorset Executive Committee.

COUNTY COUNCIL SERVICES

The personal preventive health services are the responsibility of the County Council.

They comprise, the care of mothers and young children, maternity, school health, prophylactic inoculation, home nursing, mental health, the ambulance service, the care and after care of the tuberculous, blind and handicapped, health education, the domestic help service and the welfare of the aged.

DOMESTIC HOME HELP SERVICE

The assistance provided by the domestic home help service is of such incalculable benefit to the needy old people, that it is difficult to re-call how these people managed before this service was instituted.

But for this service, on which increasing demands are being made, many old people would be unable to survive in their own homes.

VOLUNTARY SERVICES

Acknowledgement must again be made to the excellent voluntary work carried out in the district by the British Red Cross Society, the Sturminster Voluntary Old People's Welfare Committee, the Sturminster Silver Thread Club, the Rotary Club and the W.R.V.S.

The latter provides a meals-on-wheels service, from which sixty old people benefitted compared with twenty-eight during the preceding year.

This is a most valuable service. Not only are the meals appreciated by the old people, but even more (one sometimes thinks) are the twice weekly visits by helpers who take the meals around.

D. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health - Noel F. Pearson, M.R.C.S.,
(Part time) L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

He also acts as Medical Officer of Health to four other District Councils in the North Dorset area, and as Senior Assistant County Medical Officer to the Dorset County Council.

The time available which he has to devote to his duties with your Council is one half day per week.

Dr. G. B. Hopkins of the Blandford and Wimborne districts acts as his deputy during his absence on a reciprocal voluntary basis.

Public Health Inspector - F. Hodson, F.A.P.H.I., M.I.P.H.E.,
M.R.S.H.

Clerical Assistance - One Clerk, part time.

The Public Health Inspector also has responsibilities regarding Improvement Grants and administers the refuse collection service. He is also the appointed Inspector under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

WATER SUPPLY

The Poole and East Dorset Water Board have responsibility for the public water supplies in the district.

There has been close co-operation with the Officers of the Board. Copies of the reports of the regular weekly samples taken by the Board are sent to this office. Similarly, reports on samples taken by your Officer are sent to the Board.

In quality and quantity the supply has remained satisfactory. Samples examined for lead content and plumbo solvency have proved satisfactory.

Household Supplies

Few houses in the district lack a piped water supply.

Private Supplies

The small parishes of Stoke Wake and Woolland have their own private supplies.

Some houses in Belchalwell and Glanvilles Wootton derived their water from private supplies.

Samples taken during the year from the private supplies indicate that they are, in the main, satisfactory, although a fair number of unsatisfactory and suspect samples were taken at Stoke Wake. In this parish, the water supply was interrupted on a number of occasions. To guard against the effects of this, the Council installed extra storage tanks in the roofs of the four council houses at Kent View.

The samples taken from a cottage at Ibberton were from a shallow well serving the cottage and no other property.

Details of samples taken from the private supplies are as follows:-

	<u>Satis-</u> <u>factory</u>	<u>Sus-</u> <u>pect</u>	<u>Unsatis-</u> <u>factory</u>
Woolland	12	-	1
Stoke Wake	16	7	7
Belchalwell	1	2	1
Ibberton (Cottage)	-	-	2

Samples taken for lead content proved satisfactory.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

All the major parishes have got sewerage schemes. The only serious nuisance existing due to the lack of such a scheme is in the Moorside district of Marnhull.

A scheme has been prepared, which it is hoped will be proceeded with during the current year to eliminate the surcharging of sewers by surface water in the Pillwell area of Marnhull and to cope with the additional load created by the new housing development in the district.

Cesspool Emptying

The cesspool emptying service provided by the Council under Section 76 of the Public Health Act, 1936, operated by contract, has continued to operate reasonably satisfactorily.

In an attempt to overcome the difficulties and indiscriminate disposal of cesspool contents the Council

gave authority for the old refuse tip at Fifehead Neville to be used for the disposal of the contents of all cess-pools emptied in the district, including the tanks at slaughterhouses.

This experiment will be continued as long as there is no nuisance arising from this disposal, and if it can in fact continue indefinitely, it will make a valuable contribution towards the control of the disposal of cesspool contents and should make some marked contribution in the animal health field.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

A fortnightly curbside collection (with a weekly trade refuse collection in Sturminster Newton) has continued during the year.

During the year a new Packamatic 20 rear-loading vehicle was brought into service and this has resulted in a useful saving in mileage on the collection rounds. The vehicle has been fitted with hot water facilities for the men to wash their hands and paper towels with interleaved soap are also provided. The vehicle is more efficient to load and the men find it much better to work with than the old side-loader type.

There is a steady increase in the amount of refuse collected, due to the increased use of packaging materials and to the new houses which are continually being built. This trend is likely to continue and to increase in the near future.

The new refuse tip at Conygar Coppice has been brought into use and it has been found possible to tip all the refuse from the concrete hard standing. This has made a considerable reduction in the wear and tear on the lorries, in particular, much reduced tyre wear. It has also meant that the men do not have to walk about on the muddy refuse tip and waste their time towing a vehicle when it gets stuck. Arrangements have been made to continue this by the construction of a concrete retaining wall at the tipping face.

All the refuse is now moved by the small tractor and consideration will have to be given before long to providing a more robust machine for this purpose. We are still not able to cover the refuse as well or as frequently as is desirable, but there has, nevertheless, been an improvement in the disposal method.

Salvage

£15. 11. 4d. has been received during the year for the sale of mainly scrap metals and rags.

No paper salvage has been sold, but the salvage of paper has been continued and it is hoped to dispose of this in large quantities at less frequent intervals.

ROADSIDE SANITATION

Litter receptacles are supplied at laybys throughout the district; those on trunk roads being provided by the County Council and emptied by them, and also by our own vehicles when necessary.

RIVERS AND STREAMS POLLUTION

During the year, we have had one case of pollution at Stourton Caundle brook and one at Glanvilles Wootton, but neither of these were very serious and the nuisance soon ceased.

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

No. of inspectors appointed under the Act..	1 (part-time)
Estimated No. of Premises subject to Registration ..	..80
No. of Premises registered .. .. .	..74
No. of Premises inspected.. .. .	..40
No. of inspections carried out.. .. .	..41

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

	<u>No. of Premises on Reg.</u>	<u>Inspec- tions</u>	<u>Written Notice</u>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	51	29	5
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises).	55	66	3
Total	106	95	8

<u>Defects</u>	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>
Want of cleanliness	2	1
Sanitary conveniences:		
Insufficient	4	4
Unsuitable or defective	2	1
	8	6

No. of outworkers (Glove making) - 33

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

No action was called for or taken during the year.

RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES ACT

No premises in the district are registered under the Act.

SWIMMING BATHS

There are no swimming baths in the district to which the public have access, but a number of private swimming pools are in use. Those at County Schools are supervised by the County Health Department.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

One public convenience is provided by your Council in the car park at Sturminster Newton. Hand washing facilities (cold water) are supplied.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960

Several instances have occurred in the year of nuisances arising from the keeping of dogs and this has been most commonly found where the animals are left unattended in the day while all members of the household are out at work. One of these nuisances was abated following Notice to Quit on the tenant of a Council house.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES

There are four licensed caravan sites in the district. All these were for use by individual caravans. There are no large caravan sites in the district licensed by the District Council.

Fourteen visits of inspection were made to the licensed sites.

VERMINOUS PREMISES

During the year, the following infestations have been dealt with:

Flea infestations	..	..	..	1
Ant	"	..	..	7
Fly	"	..	..	4
Cockroach	"	..	..	1

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949

The North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee of which the Sturminster Rural District Council is one of the six constituent authorities continued to carry out the provisions of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The total number of inspections made under the Act in the district was five hundred and forty three, compared with six hundred and thirty during the previous year.

RAG, FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

There are no premises subject to registration under the above-mentioned Act within the district.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

There is only one property in the district licensed under the Act. This is where tropical birds are kept. Three inspections were made.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963

There is one premises registered under this Act in the district.

Under the Act, with certain limited exceptions, any person who carries on a business of providing accommodation for other people's animals, even in a private house, must be registered under this Act by the District Council.

SCHOOLS (INCLUDING SCHOOL CANTEENS)

Regular inspections of school canteens have shewn a consistently high standard of hygiene.

Several complaints were received at school canteens regarding dirty or unsatisfactory milk churns and these were taken up with the dairy concerned.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 & 1951 - Section 47

Once again, I am pleased to report that no statutory action was required to be taken during the year under these Acts for the compulsory removal of an old person requiring care and attention, to an Institution.

Persons of this category are not unknown. One is, however, most reluctant to initiate action under this Act unless the welfare of other persons is seriously interfered with. It is rarely in the true interests of the persons themselves, when compulsory removal is so often followed by early demise, which cannot be dis-associated from the compulsory removal.

HOUSING

No. of houses in the district 3,625

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year

No. of dwelling houses inspected	.. .. .	167
No. of inspections made	.. .. .	488
No. of informal notices served	.. .. .	5
No. of informal notices complied with	.. .. .	3
No. of statutory notices served..	.. .. .	3
No. of statutory notices complied with	.. .. .	Nil
No. of houses reported under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1958..	.. .. .	2

Action taken by the Local Authority in respect of such houses:

Demolition Orders made	.. .. .	Nil
Undertakings accepted for:		
Closure	.. .. .	Nil
Reconditioning..	.. .. .	Nil
Other action	.. .. .	2

No. of houses included in Clearance Areas during the year Nil

Overcrowding

No case of statutory overcrowding was found during the year.

Slum Clearance

There are few houses in the district which remain 'unfit' within the statutory definition of unfitness, and slum clearance, therefore, presents no problem.

No action was taken to implement Section 13 of the Housing Act, 1964, toward the definition of Improvement Areas.

New Housing

Sixty two new houses were erected by private enterprise, compared with thirty seven in the previous year.

Eight dwellings were built by the Council.

The long awaited new group of old people's dwellings at Brinsley Close, to be provided by the Council and the group at Highfields, to be provided by the Hanover Housing Association were nearing completion at the end of the year.

Houses Let in Lodgings

No houses are known to be let in lodgings.

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954

No applications were received during the year for certificates of disrepair under the above-mentioned Act.

Improvement Grants

Sixteen applications were received during the year in respect of standard, and four in respect of discretionary grants, compared with seventeen and five respectively during the preceding year.

Re-housing

During the year, forty seven applicants were housed by the Council. At the end of the year there were one hundred and four applicants on the waiting list, compared with one hundred and eleven a year previously.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

1. Milk

Milk & Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959

No. of 'dairies' in the district subject to registration... 5

No. of 'distributors' subject to registration12

Samples

To avoid duplication, routine sampling of milk in the district is carried out by officers of the County Council only. Twenty four samples were taken during the year, of which four failed the prescribed test.

Brucellosis

No samples of milk were submitted by your officers for examination for Brucella infection. Routine examination of samples is made by the County staff and positive results notified. One positive result in your district was notified during the year. Appropriate action was taken to check that the infected milk was subjected to adequate heat treatment.

Milk & Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959. Regulations 19-20

Warning letters had to be sent to a particular dairy supplying milk into your district, with regard to unclean churns, damaged milk bottles and the unsatisfactory keeping quality of the milk.

Salmonellosis infection amongst farm animals (principally calves) is an increasing public health hazard.

When notification of this infection is received from the Divisional Veterinary Officer, enquiries are made at the farm so that appropriate advice can be given to prevent the spread to members of the farm workers' families or the general public, through the milk supply.

Unfortunately, it is by no means certain that all instances come to notice as there is no statutory duty placed on a farmer or private veterinary surgeon to notify such outbreaks amongst farm animals, either to the Divisional Veterinary Officer or the District Medical Officer of Health.

2. Other Food Premises

The number of food premises in the area, by type of business subject to Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960:

Trade	No. of Premises	No. of Premises fitted to com- ply with Reg. 16.	No. of Premises to which Reg. 19 applies	No. of Premises fitted to comply with Reg. 19
Hotels	5	5	5	5
Cafes	6	6	6	6
Public Houses	23	23	23	23
Clubs	2	2	2	2
Church Halls	4	2	4	4
Canteens	12	12	12	12
Meat and Fish	11	11	11	11
Grocers	33	33	25	25
Mixed Stores	13	10	7	7
Boarding Schools	3	3	3	3
Food Factories	9	9	9	9
Others	6	3	3	3
	127	119	110	110
Stalls	3	-	-	-
Mobile Shops	4	-	-	-

No. of food premises subject to registration under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, in respect of:

Ice Cream	46
Sausages and Prepared Meats	11
Fish & Chips	2

Ninety-eight of the premises were inspected during the year, one hundred and fifty seven inspections being carried out, against two hundred and seven during the preceding year.

Food Inspection

Twenty-nine samples of meat or meat products were submitted for bacteriological examination, all of which gave satisfactory results.

Thirty-eight swabbings of equipment were carried out, all of which gave satisfactory samples.

These results are most satisfactory. The spot swabbing of equipment, first started four years ago, may well have resulted in greater care being given to such equipment.

When one considers the nature of knacker meat and the conditions under which it is cut up, it is surprising to note that of the 27 samples submitted for bacteriological examination only one gave an unsatisfactory result.

THE LIQUID EGG (PASTEURISATION) REGULATIONS, 1963

There are no liquid egg pasteurisation plants in the district, and no samples of liquid egg were subject to the Alpha Amylase test.

INTENSIVE FARMING

Nuisances arising from intensive farming in this district have so far been confined to that arising from the chicken manure plant at Gold Hill, Child Okeford. It is evident that such nuisances are likely to occur more frequently in the future as intensive farming methods develop on more and more sites.

POULTRY INSPECTION

The following information is particularly asked for by the Ministry of Health.

No. of poultry processing premises within the district..	3
No. of visits to these premises.	3
Total No. of birds processed during the year.	No information available.								
Type of birds processed - e.g. turkeys, ducks, hens, broilers, capons, etc.									
Percentage of birds rejected as unfit for human consumption.									
Weight of poultry condemned as unfit for human consumption.									
Comments on poultry processing and inspection.									

DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER, 1957

There is one licensed premises in the district, which is not, at present, in use.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned

1967

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	642	5086	1031	4601	292
Number inspected	642	5086	1031	4601	292
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	13	137	68	124	63
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	100	2962	75	2071	117
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	17.6	60.9	13.8	47.7	61.6
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	4	5	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	4	5	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

In addition to the above animals, 111 goats were slaughtered and inspected. Four were found to be unfit in whole or part.

MEAT INSPECTION

The meat inspection continued to be carried out by local Veterinerary Surgeons on behalf of the Council.

There are two licensed slaughterhouses and one knackers yard in the district.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS (INCLUDING HOUSING) CARRIED OUT

Total No. of inspections (under all headings) ..	..	2,308
Total No. of informal notices served..	..	38
Total No. of informal notices complied with ..	..	12
Total No. of statutory notices served ..	..	3
Total No. of statutory notices complied with ..	..	Nil
No. of prosecutions ..	..	2

E. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE

Other than Tuberculosis:

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified</u>
Measles	79
Erysipelas	1
Whooping cough	9

Tuberculosis:

<u>New Cases Notified</u>	<u>Respiratory</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory</u>
	1	Nil

Food Poisoning

No cases of suspected food poisoning were notified during the year.

NOEL F. PEARSON

Medical Officer of Health.

